

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
REPORT AUTHOR:	Councillor Jane Scullion
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Regeneration and Strategy Deputy Leader of the Council West Yorkshire Combined Authority
DATE:	30 th November 2022

MAJOR PROJECTS

- **A641** – Public consultation will begin in late November and run for six weeks. This will provide feedback on previous consultations and give an overview of the preferred scheme. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and used to inform the detailed design.
- **Clifton Enterprise Zone** – The team have been working to develop a Procurement Strategy for a delivery partner. Initial market testing has begun with the aim of agreeing a strategy by early 2023. This strategy will include details of any additional funding that might be required to deliver the scheme, either from LUF, prudential borrowing, or other sources.
- **A629 Phase 2** – Tender documents for a main contractor have been issued through the YorCivils Framework, with returns expected in January 2023. We are planning to submit the Full Business Case to WYCA in Spring 2023 and award the contract in Autumn next year.
- **Mixenden Hub** – Tenders have been received and are currently being reviewed by the project team. Initial assessment suggests that costs are within budget and we expect to enter into contract with the preferred bidder in December 2022.
- **Ash Green Primary:** The stage 2 feasibility report has received approval from insurers and the DfE for the rebuild of the affected wing. Stage 3 design development is now underway with a target of early Feb 2023 to submit the planning application for the rebuild. The next key milestone approval for insurers and DfE is the tender report, which is currently scheduled for July 2023.
- **Ravenscliffe@Spring Hall:** The pre-start meeting for the classroom expansion was held with the full project team, school leadership and governors on 1st November. The feasibility study is now underway and is on track for completing in Jan 2023.

- **Castle Hill Primary:** This project was successful under the last round of the Government's School Rebuilding Programme announcement. Officers are working closely with Senior Management from the DfE and their design team on the rebuild project. A schedule of accommodation has been signed off together with the preferred location for a new and a one and a half storey 1 FE building. A pre planning application meeting has been held and the feasibility stage is due to finish in late Jan/early Feb 2023.
- **Halifax Leisure Centre:** Members will be aware that a revised validated cost plan has been received from the contractor, which indicated further cost increases to the project well above the previously approved budget. These further increases would have required additional borrowing that would not have been supported by the operational business case and meant there would have to have been cuts in other services to accommodate this borrowing. A decision was therefore taken by Cabinet to pause the project pending a full review of costs, scope, and procurement. This pause will allow all options to be considered for delivery of modern leisure facilities in Halifax Town Centre. Initial discussions have been held with the Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities, over the risks to the project and funding awarded by the Levelling-Up Fund. DLUHC are keen to ensure that the fund can support delivery of a new facility in Halifax and the team will continue to work with them closely as the review progresses

PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL

The consultation on the Main Modifications to the Local Plan has now closed. The consultation ran from 12th August until Friday 21st October. Over 900 representations were made on the Main Modifications documents. The Planning Inspector is now in the process of considering the representations received prior to issuing her final report. If the Inspector considers that the Plan is sound and legally compliant, the final decision on adoption will be taken by Full Council. We aim to reach this stage by the end of 2022 or beginning of 2023; however, we are dependent on the Inspector issuing her report in relation to the timing of the Full Council.

As part of the Improvement Plan for the Planning Service we are looking at ways to improve on how we engage with our customers and provide a better customer experience. We have taken update reports to Scrutiny.

The Planning Advisory Service PAS have kindly offered to support the Planning Service with this and will be providing dedicated training to Officers within the Development Management Team on 28th November. In order to inform the training for Planning Officers, PAS will be interviewing a wide range of stakeholders who are involved within the planning process, including Parish Councils, Planning Agents and Members so that their feedback can be fed into the training.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The Strategic Infrastructure Service continues to deliver against our statutory duties, service levels and support the wider capital programme within budget. Key issues being managed at the moment are:

- **Construction Price Inflation:** Levels of inflation in the construction industry have been extremely high for the last two years which is putting pressure on both our pro-active and reactive maintenance activities. This is being managed closely to ensure we continue to deliver value for money, maximise available funding and stay within our budget.
- **Recruitment & Retention:** It remains challenging to recruit qualified and experienced engineers and technical staff with significant vacancies in key positions across the service requiring resource support from consultants. This is a key leadership focus for Strategic Infrastructure with a number of workstreams underway to better support recruitment, retention and training moving forward.

Key Updates:

1. Asset and Capital

Over the last quarter Asset and Capital have achieved the following:

Surfacing

Skircoat Moor Road, Halifax	575m resurfacing	£175,000
Staups Lane, Halifax	170m resurfacing	£54,000
Hill View Gardens, Northowram	320m resurfacing	£55,000
Birkby Lane, Bailiff Bridge	250m resurfacing	£145,000
Birds Royd Lane, Brighouse	600m kerb and footway	<u>£160,000</u>
Total		£589,000

Traffic Regulation

- Haworth Old Road Experimental Order is now in place and operational.
- The Brighouse Accelerator Experimental Order has now been made permanent after approval by the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Governing Body.
- Progressing various Section 278 related Traffic Regulation Orders facilitating developments
- Progressing/supporting Major Projects teams with Elland Future High Street Fund (FHSF), Halifax FHSF, Transport Fund Phases 1b and 2, A641, Brighouse Town Investment Plan (TIP), Todmorden TIP

- Progressing/supporting Transportation Teams (Corridor Improvement Plan, Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), School Streets, Your Street Matters, Development Control)
- Progressing City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement schemes
- Supporting construction of Halifax Bus Station (West Yorkshire Combined Authority)

Structures Team

- Nearing completion of the highway wall rebuild along Elland Road.
- Commenced early works and initiated mobilisation for the first phase of Lobb Mill
- Hebble End Bridge Restrengthening to commence w/c 14th of November.
- Second phase of Bankhouse Lane design nearing completion.
- ECI contractor engaged to progress Shaw Wood Road feasibility.
- Continue to work with Public Health in progressing North Bridge Suicide prevention measures.
- Ongoing minor walls and bridge schemes and statutory bridge inspections across the borough.

2. Streetworks

There are currently no major utility schemes impacting on the major network at the moment, but there are lots of smaller schemes on the side roads. Cityfibre continue their installation programme around the Warley and Thrum Hall area and other locations around the exchange situated on Queens Road.

3. Transportation and Road Safety

Capital Projects

- A58 and A646 corridor programmes West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund (WY+TF) in construction. Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by Dept of Transport and advertised on site. Sowerby Bridge market demolished, and site made safe.
- Progressing Business Cases for A629 North Corridor (WY+TF), West and North Halifax Streets for People (TCF) and Elland Station and Access (WY+TF) schemes.
- Progressing designs for Ash Green and Ling Bob/Christ Church Active Travel Fund Schemes.
- 'Your Street Matters' Commonplace on-line consultation carried out for Skircoat.
- Northeast Calderdale Strategic Outline Case submitted to West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Safe Roads Programme

- Jumbles Crag weight limit informal consultation issued.
- Barkisland area junction and speed limit buffer informal consultation issued.
- 2 new digital speed cameras installed on Calderdale Way.

4. Flood Risk Management

As Lead Local Flood Authority, the Council is required to produce a Flood Investigation Report of significant flood events. This is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Section 19.

There are two ongoing Section 19 reports being prepared:

- Report of flood event on 9th February 2020 (Storm Ciara) Data collection is complete, and consultants have been appointed to produce the report. The first draft of the report and hydrometric analysis have been received and commented on by CMBC Flood Risk Team. An updated second draft has been received and a copy for comments has been sent out to Risk Management Authorities. The closing date for comments was 17th October 2022. The final draft will be presented at the next Flood Partnership Board Meeting.
- Report of flood event on 20th February 2022 Data collection is ongoing, and consultants have been appointed to produce the report and hydrometric analysis. A draft will be sent to Risk Management Authorities as soon as it is available.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) Landowner Grant Scheme:

- 23 schemes are now complete and a further five partially complete, all of these are expected to be completed in 2022.
- A new round of Landowner Grants for NFM is open for applications, expecting 30 applications for new schemes.
- 30 new Botanical Surveys have taken place on land proposed for NFM
- Current funding status is £409k allocated to schemes with £341k expended to date.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS AND CALDERDALE'S INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Start-up West Yorkshire

This month saw the launch of the Start-up West Yorkshire forum at Dean Clough in Halifax. The programme provides support for people to learn more about becoming self-employed and decide if it's the right decision for their future. Delivery is ahead of targets, and referrals into the programme have been strong, with DWP the largest referral partner and over 50% of participants identifying as female. Feedback from

participants is positive, with increased customer bases, grants accessed and an appreciation of staff believing in the potential of the entrepreneurs.

Business Growth

The Let's Do Business event at the Piece Mill on 12 October included workshops for understanding and reducing your environmental footprint, strategic marketing and decision making, women in leadership and management, and overcoming 'Imposter Syndrome'. It was attended by 40 people from local businesses.

Calderdale Council was proud to sponsor the Covid Resilience award at Business for Calderdale – Business Awards last month. The event was attended by over 300 business people, and was a celebration of the strength and resilience of local businesses, as well as their contribution to the communities of Calderdale.

The business and skills team have worked with climate action colleagues to bring together a focus group of local businesses in support of the consultation on the draft Climate Action Plan. The well attended event provided the opportunity for local businesses to share their views on the focus and priorities within the draft plan, including the green economy section.

The team continues to meet with new businesses and follow up with existing contacts, connecting people to various programmes of support. There has been an increase in people seeking support around cost of living and doing business challenges. For those businesses trading for 3 years or under, we are supporting them to access cost of living support around a range of topics designed to put the business on the best financial footing as possible. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority has a range of resources at [Support for businesses and organisations - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk) and we look forward to the launch of the West Yorkshire Energy Price Crisis Emergency Grants Programme which should provide much needed support to local businesses.

Visitor Economy

The Visit Calderdale team continue to connect businesses to free social media training, which will help them improve their online presence. To date 964 businesses in Calderdale have signed up.

The Visit Calderdale team are working with West Yorkshire colleagues on Christmas itineraries to promote staycations in West Yorkshire and Calderdale using the hashtag #enjoywestyorkshire.

The Place Development Team are working closely with Public Health colleagues to promote health and wellbeing to businesses and will be holding four State of Mind sessions early in next year.

The visitor economy team are working with the Community Rail Partnership to produce a leaflet which will promote attractions along the Calder Valley line, encourage visitors

to use public transport and be active. We are working in collaboration with Marketing Manchester and aim to launch in April next year, when the Anne Lister Birthday weekend will also take place.

Inclusive Economy Board

Earlier this year we agreed that we are now moving beyond recovery and have re-established the Inclusive Economy Board, with recovery embedded rather than a sole focus.

At the meeting in November 2022, we reviewed the terms of reference of the Board with a tighter focus on business growth and resilience, employment and skills, and community wellbeing. The meeting will also address how we can provide support for our local economy in the context of the cost of living crisis and continuing to develop our partnership and place leadership relationship with WYCA, enabling Calderdale to benefit from and contribute more effectively to national and regional programmes.

We plan to review and refresh our Inclusive Economic Strategy in 2023 as part of the work to renew Vision 2024.

Completion of Park and Warley Inclusive Economy Pilot

Officers are now working on winding up the Park and Warley Inclusive Economy pilot with the community steering group. The steering group is developing proposals that build on the learning from the pilot and evaluation from Leeds Beckett University for an investment plan using the remaining Business Rates Pool funding. This will extend existing key projects including at risk projects due to the end of European Structural Funding and will complement the design of the UKSPF programme (see Cllr Courtney's report) by joining up local provision to create holistic systems of employment and business support.

WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

The October meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority approved some significant programmes of investment which will directly benefit Calderdale, alongside the other boroughs of West Yorkshire.

Cllr Dacre's report includes an update on the approval of funds for Employment Support West Yorkshire, which will ensure that the work of the Employment Hub in Calderdale can continue and develop further, with an increased focus on green and digital skills and an ongoing emphasis on supporting local people into work.

The approval of the business growth and innovation programmes will ensure that we are able to continue to provide business growth support to local businesses in Calderdale for another two years, in an increasingly testing economic context.

Cllr Patient's report includes an update on the approval of funds for projects which support climate action. These sub regional schemes will provide support for the delivery of our local Climate Action Plan when it is finalised in early 2023.

Finally, in the context of the ongoing cost of living crisis, the resources from West Yorkshire Combined Authority to support voluntary and community sector organisations in Calderdale help those most in need of both immediate practical support, and ongoing support for employment and skills are a welcome intervention.

A629 Phase 4 & Halifax Station Gateway – As a result of inflationary cost increase, the Council was asked by WYCA to identify £50m in programme savings to contribute towards a funding shortfall in WYCA funded transport schemes, as well as review any cost increases on schemes which are to be progressed. A proposed settlement was reached with WYCA which will pause A629 Phase 4 and Halifax Station Gateway but increase funding to phases 1b and 2 of the A629 project to ensure that cost increases from inflation and other project and market changes are fully funded. This will reduce the total funding to Calderdale from £253m to £219m. The revised programme is due to be formalised by WYCA in December, and project teams have begun consulting with project stakeholders about how to bring projects to an appropriate pause point, whilst also identifying alternative funding sources.